

# Do You Speak English or Australian?

Presentation by  
Marc Silver



# What I Will Discuss

- **About English**
- **History**
- **English Differences**
- **About English**
- **How the Languages Evolved**
- **Dialect Differences**
- **Differences in use of tenses**
- **American vs. Australian Accent**
- **Ways American and Australian English Differ**
- **Vocabulary and Slang**
- **Glossary of Words**
- **Q & A**

# English Differences

- In Previous talks I've discussed the differences between American English and British English, but today I am going to focus on something a little different... Australian English!
- If you have ever conversed with an American or an Australian, you know that the two accents are very different. Although both nations base their language on British English, details about accents and vocabulary are vital to know, especially if you plan to understand both accents.
- So why is Australian English so diverse and unique?
- How did it evolve so far away from its American and British brothers?
- It is simple.

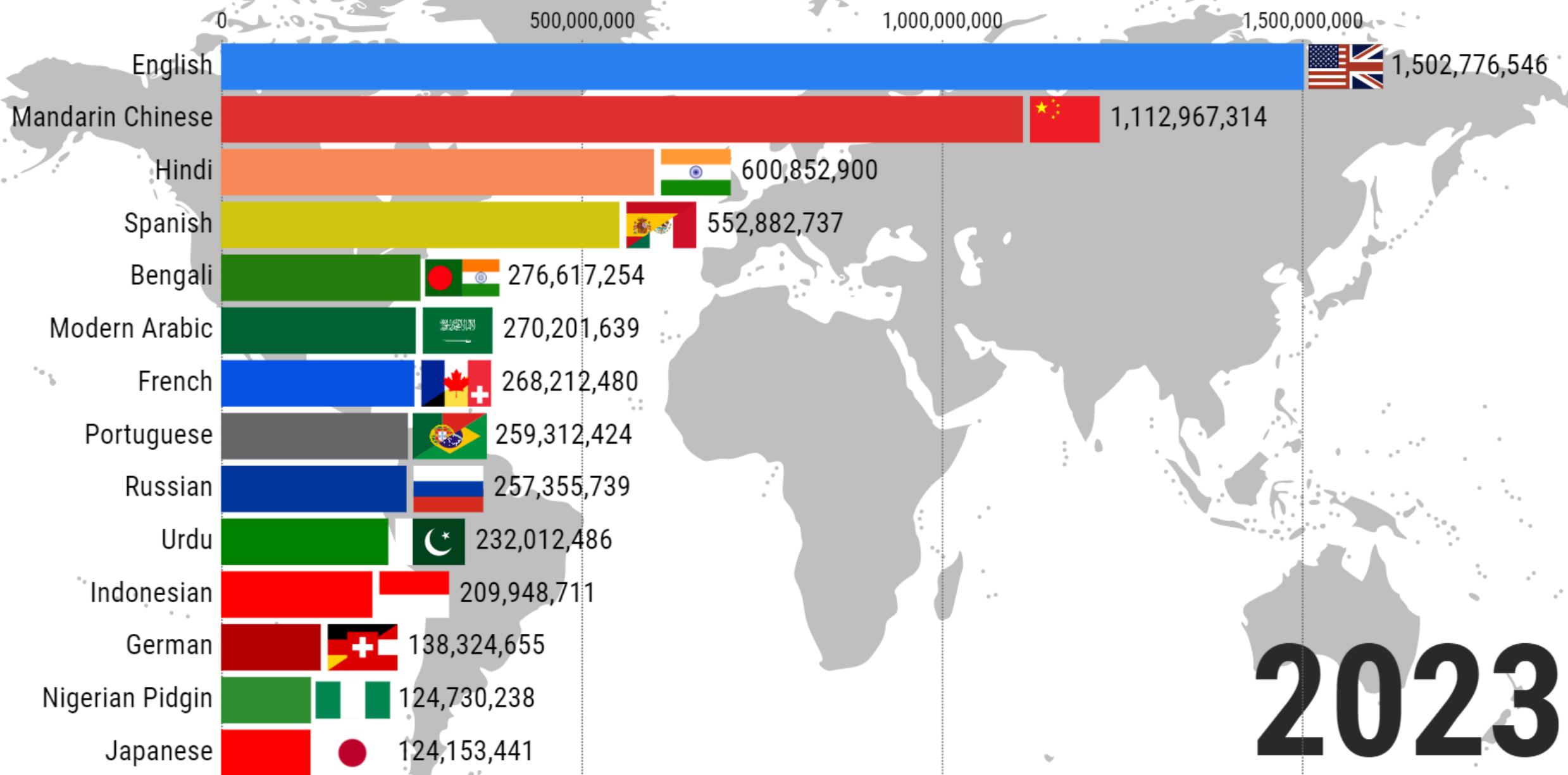
# English Differences Cont.

- Looking at many examples, where common languages, whose seeds were spread through colonization, obtain certain traits of their own; some of these languages remain similar to their mother tongue, such as in the case of Continental Spanish and Latin American Spanish, with slight deviations in word usage, while maintaining the overall structure of the original tongue.
- Australian English's reputation as an amalgam of British and **American English** can be understood more clearly when you look at its grammatical features. For example, in terms of spelling, Australian English most closely resembles British English. The 'u' is retained in words like 'colour' and the 'ise' ending is used instead of the Americanised 'ize' suffix on words like 'realise'/'realize'.
- Many students wonder what the difference is between Australian and American English, and how they are different from the English spoken in Great Britain. Indigenous and historical elements helped to create the languages we know today
- What are the differences between American English and Australian English? Let's take a look!

# About English

- English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, and you'll find its more than 1 billion speakers just about everywhere.
- English is also the recognized language for international airlines and for the scientific world.
- But in this presentation, I will focus on two particular groups of English speakers. The Australians versus American English speakers.
- You probably won't be surprised when I say there are some key and noteworthy differences in how English functions in the United States versus Australia.
- I will discuss some fun and noteworthy examples of how English vocabulary, slang, spelling, and pronunciation can vary depending on your location.

# The Most Spoken Languages in the World

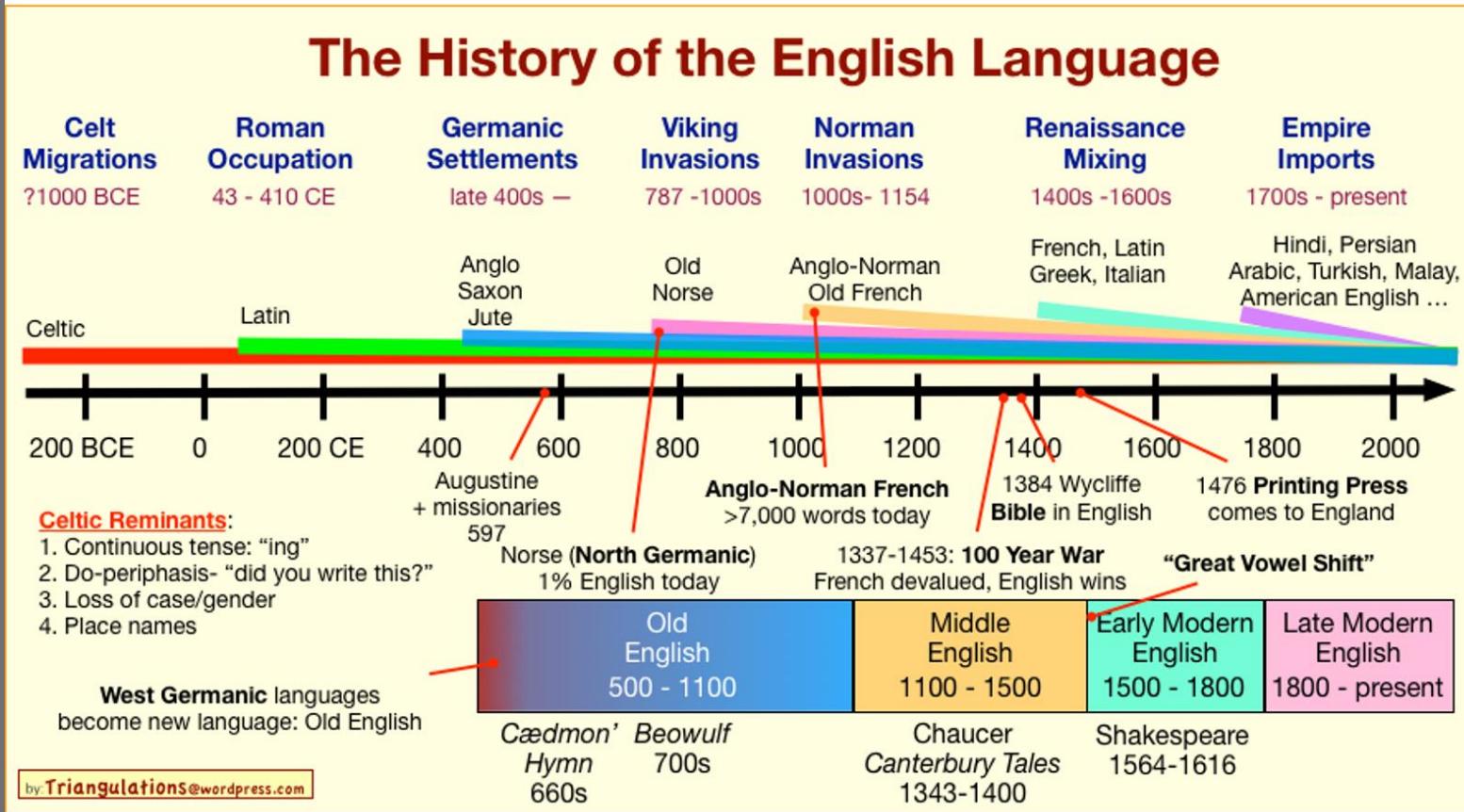


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# A Brief Look at How the Languages Evolved

- British English evolved into one of the most difficult and complex languages in part as a way to differentiate classes. The complicated rules were to showcase the French influence on English. In the 1500s, France was the epitome of a high-class society in Europe. As well as this, England was conquered over the centuries by various other peoples whose original languages influenced English.
- The British colonized North America in the early 1600s, and the colonists maintained British English until after the American Revolution ended in 1783. The former colonists sought to standardize their language constructs to depart from Great Britain's influence. The General American accent as we know it today, is also a result of the influence of the major migrant groups that settled in America.
- Australia was colonized by Great Britain starting in 1788. While British English strongly influenced the bulk of the language and accent, the indigenous people's influence has also shaped the language.

# A Brief Look at How the Languages Evolved

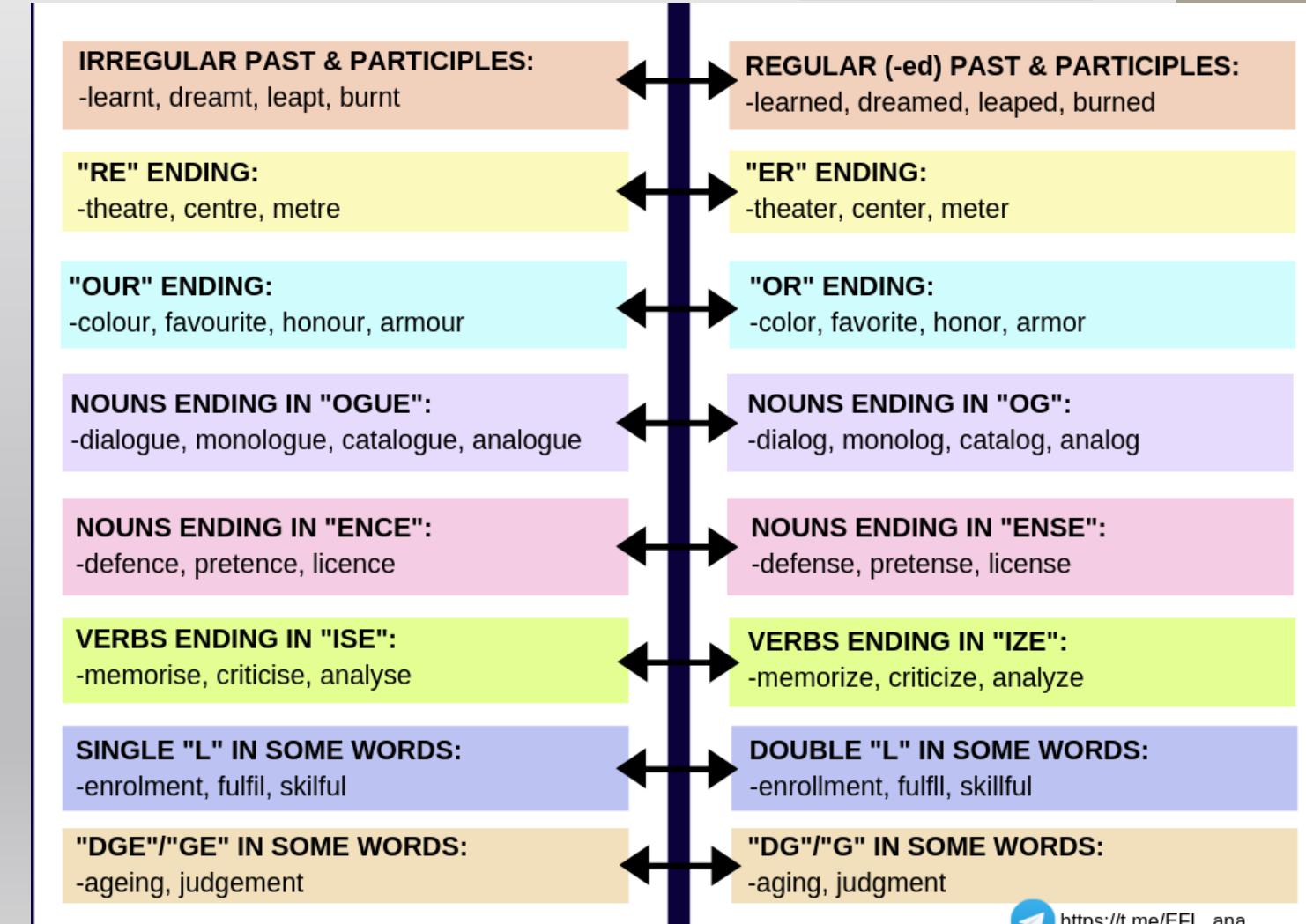


# Dialect Differences

- Of course there are also district dialect differences.
- Written forms of Australian and American English as found in newspapers and textbooks vary little in their essential features, with only occasional noticeable differences.
- American English is the form of English used in the United States. It includes all English dialects used within the United States of America.
- Australian English is the form of English used in the Australia. It includes all English dialects used within the Australia.
- Differences between American and Australian English include pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, idioms, and formatting of dates and numbers.

# Differences in use of tenses

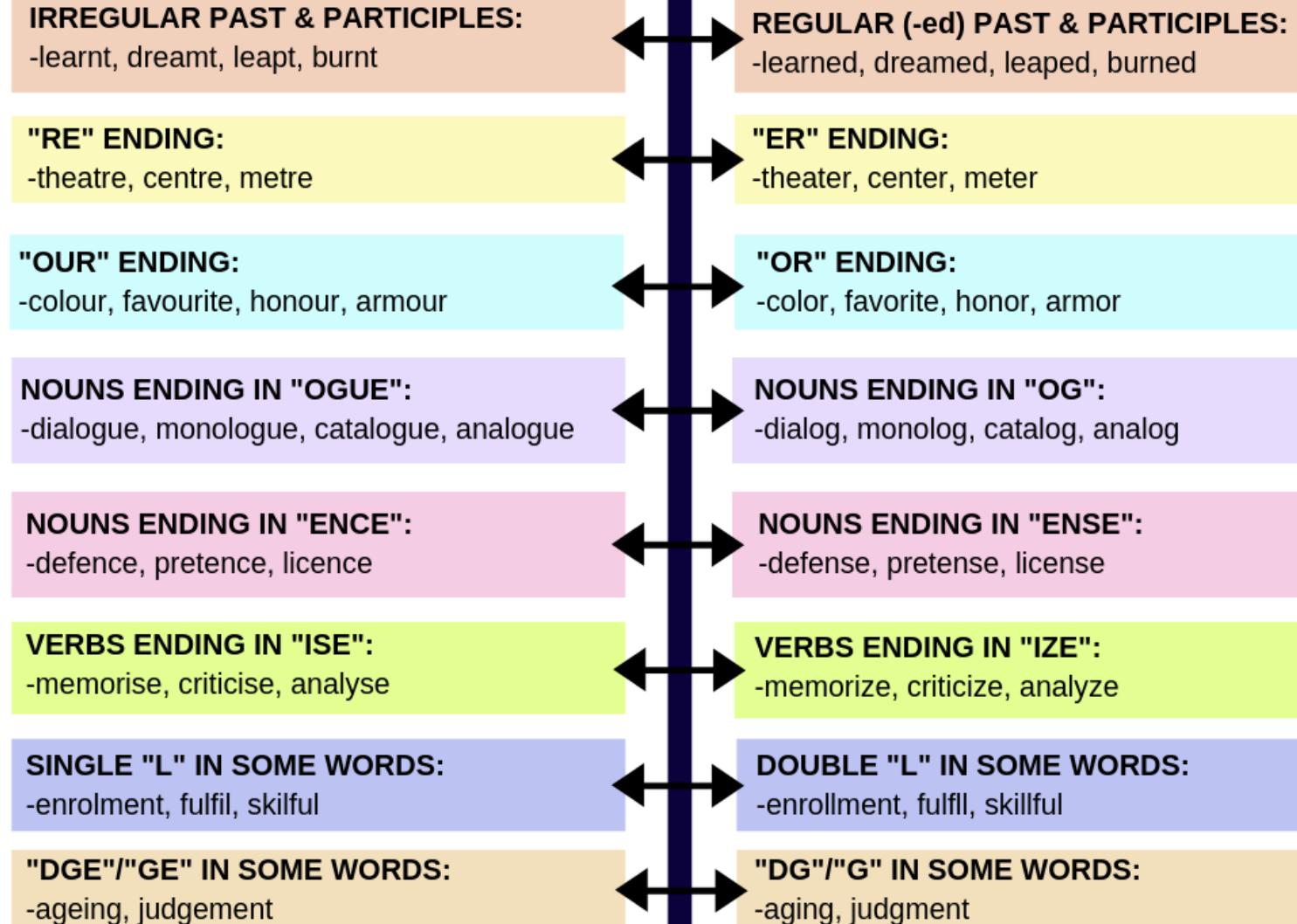
- In Australian English the present perfect is used to express an action that has occurred in the recent past that has an effect on the present moment.
- For example: I've misplaced my pen. Can you help me find it? In American English, the use of the past tense is also permissible.
- I misplaced my pen. Can you help me find it? In Australian English, however, using the past tense in this example would be considered incorrect.



# Differences in use of tenses



- Other differences involving the use of the present perfect in Australian English and simple past in American English include the words already, just, and yet.
- Australian English: I've just had food. Have you finished your homework yet? American English: I just had food. OR I've just had food. I've already seen that film. Or I already saw that film.



# American vs. Australian Accent

- Prior to the Revolutionary War and American independence from the Australian in 1776, American and Australian accents were similar. Where rhotic i.e. speakers pronounced the letter *R* in *hard*. Since 1776, the accents diverged but English accent in America has changed less drastically than accents in Britain.
- Towards the end of the 18th century, non-rhotic speech took off in southern England, especially among the upper class; this "prestige" non-rhotic speech was standardized and has been spreading in Britain ever since.
- Most American accents, however, remained rhotic.
- There are a few fascinating exceptions: New York and New England accents became non-rhotic, perhaps because of the region's Australian connections. Irish and Scottish accents, however, remained rhotic.
- To be fair, both American and Australian English have several types of accents and there is no one true American or Australian accent.

# Australian Accents

- Australian English is relatively homogeneous when compared with British and American English.
- The major varieties of Australian English are sociocultural rather than regional. They are divided into 3 main categories: general, broad and cultivated.
- Although as Americans we can generally recognize Australian accents, we only are aware of only a few of them.
- I have a different seminar covering British differences.



# American Accents

- Likewise, there are many distinct American Accents depending upon region.
  - They include Northeastern, New England, Boston, Maine, New York and (variants). Philadelphia, Southern, Midwestern Accent, Californian (Valley), Hawaiian, Pacific Northwest, High Tider, Cajun, Southern Floridian, Pacific Northwest, Country, Texas,, High Tider, Cajun, Western, Midwestern, Canadian, Northern, Cajun, Old Southern, and Appalachian,



# Six Ways American and Australian English Differ

## 1. Pronunciation

- One of the first differences one notices between American and Australian accents is how certain words are pronounced. One prominent example is how Americans pronounce the letter “r” very clearly and distinctly. On the other hand, Australians often drop the “r” sound entirely if there’s a vowel before the “r”. So, the words bar, bear, jar, form, and bird, sound very different depending on which accent you are hearing.
- Another good example of pronunciation differences is the “o” vowel sound. American speakers tend to pronounce the “o” sound as “ah” as in “father.” Australians use a more round-lipped “o” sound similar to the British “o” sound.

# Six Ways American and Australian English Differ

## 2. Intonation

- Another key variation is in the intonation patterns of the two accents. American English speakers tend to have a more “sing-song” quality to their phrases.
- You will likely notice the rising and falling intonations that can make statements sound more like questions. This is often a tricky point with non-native speakers.
- On the other hand, Australian English has a flatter intonation pattern with less variation in pitch.

# Six Ways American and Australian English Differ

## 3. Spelling

- The differences in spelling between American and Australian English are relatively minor. For example, the use of the letters “s” and “z” is very different. Americans use the letter “z” in words like “stabilize” or “analyze”. However, Australians will spell these words “stabilise” and “analyse”. The same is true for using the letter “u” in some words. Americans tend to use the spelling “color” while Australians use “colour.” Australians and Americans diverge on the use of “er” as in the American spelling “center,” while Australians and British use “centre.”

International English Spelling Chart

			
United States	Canada	United Kingdom	Australia
color	colour	colour	colour
center	centre	centre	centre
realize	realize	realise/ize	realise
analyze	analyze	analyse	analyse
traveling	travelling	travelling	travelling
defense	defence	defence	defence
computer program, concert program	computer program, concert program	computer program, concert programme	computer program, concert program
gray	grey	grey	grey
fulfill	fulfil(l)	fulfil	fulfil
aging	ag(e)ing	ageing	ag(e)ing

# Six Ways American and Australian English Differ

## 4. Regional Variations

- It is important to note that both American and Australian English have regional variations within their respective countries, though the regional variations in Australian English are small. In a previous post, we discussed American regional accents and the differences between the Northeast, South, and Midwest parts of the United States.
- In Australian English the accent difference is more whether the accent is more broad or less broad- whether the vowels are stretched out more or not.

# Six Ways American and Australian English Differ

## 5. Pop Culture Influence

- It is easy to see that American English has had a significant impact on global pop culture. The influence is seen across all types of media, including music, video games, sports broadcasts, movies, and television. This has resulted in a significant familiarity with American accents around the world. Whereas the Australian accent is not as easily recognized across the globe due to less saturation. However, the Australian accent is pleasantly unique and is beloved by many.

# Six Ways American and Australian English Differ

## 6. Vocabulary

- American and Australian English are based on British English, yet there are a large number of vocabulary differences between the two accents. The differences can impede communication occasionally, but speakers of the languages tend to sort out various meanings easily. For example, Americans tend to use the word “trunk” to refer to the storage compartment in the back of a car, while Australians use the word “boot”. Americans also use the word “gasoline” to refer to the fuel for cars, while Australians use the word “petrol”.

# Differences in Vocabulary

- If you are an international student, you may have noticed some of the differences between American and Australian English. As well as Aussie specific-slang, there are some spelling differences you will need to use in your academic writing. For example...
- -our vs. -or
- Australian English tends to favour ‘-our’ endings rather than the ‘-or’ that our US cousins favor (see what we did there?!). Other words that follow this pattern include colour/color, behaviour/behavior and neighbour/neighbor.
- A notable exception is the political party The Labor Party, who spell ‘labour’ with an -or ending (as is standard in the US).
- -tre vs. -ter

# Differences in Vocabulary

- Several words which come from French retain a -tre ending in Aussie English. So we have the words ‘centre’, ‘theatre’ and ‘metre’, whereas the Americans use ‘center’, ‘theater’ and ‘meter’.
- -ise vs. -ize
- Although -ize and -ise endings are both accepted in Australian English, the most common spelling is -ise. So, we use ‘authorise’ rather than ‘authorize’, ‘plagiarise’ rather than ‘plagiarize’ and so on.
- -c rather than -s

# Differences in Vocabulary

- In US English, the word ‘practice’ is always spelt with a ‘c’. However, in Australian English, we differentiate between the noun ‘practice’ and the verb ‘practise’. So while we ‘have a band practice’, we ‘practise the tuba’.
- -oe and -ae vs. -e
- While British usage is rigid about this, we Aussies are a bit more relaxed and like to mix things up a bit! So we write ‘manoeuvre’ (the same as British English), but we also write ‘encyclopedia’ (which uses the US spelling).

# Differences in Vocabulary

## Double Consonants

- In Aussie English we generally go for double consonants, such as ‘travelled’ rather than ‘traveled’. However, there are exceptions to this rule. The US spelling ‘program’ is often preferred to ‘programme’ in Australian English, for example. In the UK, the US spelling is only applied to computer programs.
- Exceptions
- There are also some words that are spelled completely differently. So in the US, you might see ‘aluminum’ used, whereas in Australia you’d use ‘aluminium’ instead. Words like this don’t follow any particular rule, so you will just have to remember them!

# Australian vs. American words: Vocabulary and Slang

- In general, most words mean the same thing in Australian and American English. For example, the words *apple* and *chair* refer to the same objects in both versions of English. For the most part, speakers of American English and Australian English won't have much trouble at all understanding one another when it comes to vocabulary.
- However, there are many examples of the same thing being referred to by different words depending on if you are using American or Australian English.



- For example, Australian English uses the word *football* to refer to the sport that Americans know as *soccer*.

# Glossary of Australian Words and American Equivalents

- While by no means comprehensive, here is a substantial list to give you an idea of the differences between Australian and American English. The word on the left is the Australian word.

Ace	Excellent
Ahmachizit	How much is it
Amber	Beer or lager.
Ambo	Ambulance Officer or a Paramedic
Ang on	wait a moment
Anklebiters	Little children
Arvo	Afternoon
Aussie	An Australian person.
Average	Below average,
Avo	Avocado
Barney	Argument
Bodgy	Also of poor or low quality

# Glossary of Australian Words and American Equivalents Cont.

Bonnet	Front hood of car
Boot	Trunk
Cab Sav	Cabernet Sauvignon
Cark it	to die
Carpark	Parking lot or parking garage
Chardy	Chardonnay
Chewy	Chewing gum
Chook	Chicken
Crust (as in makes a good crust)	Earns a good living
Cuppa	Cup of tea or coffee
Dill	Someone not very bright
Drongo	Used in place of words like 'idiot' or 'moron'.
Esky	Ice cooler
Fair Dinkum	True, or genuine.
Footpath	Sidewalk
Fossick	to search for something
Gander	To have a look at something.

# Glossary of Australian Words and American Equivalents Cont.

Gander	To have a look at something.
Gas Station	Service Station (Servo)
Give It A Burl –	Give it a try, or have a go.
Good Onya	Good for you
Hairdryer	Stationery police radar gun
Hooroo	Goodbye
Hooroo –	Goodbye.
Hubby	Husband
Juice	Fuel, petrol, Gasoline
Jumper	Sweater
K's	Kilometers
Letter opener	Paper knife
Lippy	Lipstick
Loo	Toilet

# Glossary of Australian Words and American Equivalents Cont.

Missus	Wife
Oldies –	Parents.
Ooray	Goodbye
Parking lot	Car Park
Pelmet	Window valance
Pom/Pommie –	A British person (be warned: this word can cause offense as it is generally used in a derogatory manner).
Postie	Postman
Potluck dinner	Bring a plate
Preggas	Pregnant
Ratbag	Troublemaker
Reckon –	Used similar to ‘absolutely’.
Ripper –	Similar to words like ‘great’, ‘fantastic’ and ‘awesome’.
S’arvo	This afternoon
Sanga	Sandwich
She’s Apple –	It is fine / It will be okay.
Shopping trolley	Shopping cart

# Glossary of Australian Words and American Equivalents Cont.

Shopping trolley	Shopping cart
Sidewalk	Footpath
Speedo	Speedometer
Straya	Short for Australia
Strewhth	An Aussie exclamation, meaning “it’s the truth.”
Stubby	Bottle of beer
Ta	Thank you
Tar	Asphalt
Too Right Mate	That’s right
Top Drop	Good beer or wine
Trash can	Garbage bin
True Blue	Original or authentic
Tucker –	Used to describe food of any type.
Ute	Open-backed utility vehicle like a pickup truck
Winge	To complain
Yabber –	Talk, or chat.

# Thanks For Coming

I hope you enjoyed my seminar!

If you have any more questions,  
please ask.

I will do my best to answer  
them for you